Government Plan to Work out Foreign Equity in T.V. Channels

1513. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to work out foreign equity in T.V. Channels;

(b) steps taken by Government for proper control on electronic media;

(c) whether the creation of autonomous corporation is not the answer in our type of democracy; and

(d) steps taken by Government for proper coverage of T.V. Programme in the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Government have already introduced the Broadcasting Bill, 1997 in Parliament which addresses the issues regarding foreign equity in broadcasting sector and regulation of electronic media. The Bill is presently under the consideration of a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

(c) In all major democratic countries, the Government do not own the Electronic Media and it remains autonomous. Similarly, the Parsar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 which provides for the establishment of an autonomous Corporation has been notified which will come into effect from 15th September, 1997.

(d) At present, about 81.3% population of North-Eastern States is under TV coverage. With the commissioning of transmitters presently under implementation/envisaged to be set up, about 86.7% population of North-East region is expected to be brought under TV coverage. Schemes for the purpose of extension of TV coverage to about 95% population of North-East region have been included in the Draft IX plan proposals.

Showing of Cigarette and Liquor Ads. on T.V.

1514. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cigarette and liquor ads. are being shown by Doordarshan under the garb of some other products;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to prevent such a circumvention of law;

(c) whether Government are aware that ads. of a foreign made shirts projects Indian people and their culture as inferior and ridiculous; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any action against the person responsible?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such ads are being telecast on Doordarshan.

(d) Does not arise.

Projection of National and International News

1515. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by Government media in projecting the national and international news and its performance as compared to International standards and other news agencies like BBC and CNN.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to bring professionalism in the media and to raise the standard of the news services?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Review of the capability of the government media

in projecting national and international news is a continuing process. Though no specific study has been undertaken in the recent past, suitable steps are taken from time to time to improve news gathering system and editing to bring the bulletins upto international standards. Steps are also taken by Government from time to time to bring professionalism in the news media.

Application for censor of films/scripts

1516. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) How many applications for censor of films/scripts were received during each of the last three years, language-wise and region-wise;

(b) out of these how many films/scripts, were cleared each year and how many rejected, language-wise, region-wise;

(c) what have been the lengths of rejection in each film out of total lengths and the specific reasons for rejection of films/scripts; and

(d) what is the total number of Film Certification Boards, region-wise and how many of these are functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Over 2,500 films have been certified during the last three years. A number of deletion of varying lengths are made in a large number of films. As such, the information regarding length of each deletion and the specific reasons for ordering each such deletion will be very voluminous and is not maintained centrally. The effort and time that may have to be put in for collection and compilation of information will not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

(d) The Central Board of Film Certification has 9 Regional Offices at Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Cuttack, Calcutta, Guwahati and New Delhi and all these offices are functioning at present.

Theft of costly software in Delhi Doordarshan

1517. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently there has been theft of costly software in Delhi Doordarshan;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of the software stolen;

(c) the outcome of the inquiry, if any, made by Government into the theft of costly software; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Hard discs costing about Rs. 70,000/- from nine Personal Computers from the newsroom of Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi were found stolen on 31st May, 1997.

(c) and (d) The investigating team of Delhi Police examined the newsroom and initiated the investigations on the same day.

Setting up of T.V. Tower Station at Bhuj

1518. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government has sanctioned TV tower station for setting up near village Samatra in Bhuj Tehsil, Kutch District Gujarat;

(b) if so, when it was to be set up and completed and made functional;

(c) whether it is a fact that no progress for setting up the T.V. tower has been made so far; and